

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 RSC-01 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 ACDA-19 SAM-01

MC-02 SAB-01 DRC-01 /191 W

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R 161105Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4273

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DACCA 4157

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BG, KS, US

SUBJECT: 29TH UNGA: SOUTH KOREANS LOBBYING IN DACCA

1. SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR CHAN HYUN PAK AND COUNSELOR HAE HON JONG, BOTH RESIDENT IN NEW DELHI, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, TO OBTAIN EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF BANGLADESH'S STANCE VIS-A-VIS THE ANTICIPATED KOREAN ISSUE AT THE 29TH UNGA. THEY WERE TOLD EMBASSY HAS RAISED ISSUE WITH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AS INSTRUCTED IN STATE 196841 AND HAD RECEIVED AN ATTENTIVE LISTENING. THE SOUTH KOREANS WERE ALSO INFORMED, HOWEVER, THAT BANGLADESH FEELS CONSTRAINED TO IDENTIFY ITSELF WITH THE NONALIGNED BLOC AND WILL DOUBTLESS FOLLOW THE LEAD OF OTHERS IN THE BLOC.

2. AMBASSADOR PAK THEN SAID THAT HE AND COUNSELOR JONG WERE CARRYING INVITATIONS FOR BOTH PRIME MINISTER MUJIBUR RAHMAN AND FOREIGN MINISTER KAMAL HOSSAIN TO VISIT SOUTH KOREA, AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THIS MIGHT HAVE SOME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EFFECT ON BANGLADESH'S ATTITUDE. WHILE WE AGREED THAT

THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER ARE THE KEY FIGURES IN POLICY FORMULATION, WE ADDED THAT BANGLADESH'S

FELT NEED TO IDENTIFY WITH THE NONALIGNED NATIONS WOULD

SUGGEST THAT THE INVITATIONS WILL PROBABLY NOT DEFLECT

BANGLADESH FROM ASSOCIATING ITSELF WITH THE NONALIGNED BLOC ON THE KOREAN ISSUE. COUNSELOR JONG VOICED SOMEWHAT

GREATER OPTIMISM. HE STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY ONE MFA OFFICIAL THAT THE PRIME MINISTER VIEWS NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA AS "TWO SISTERS" WHO SHOULD BE ABLE TO "GET ALONG WELL." DRAWING ON THESE REMARKS, JONG SEEMED TO CONCLUDE THAT BANGLADESH MIGHT BE PREPARED TO PLAY A MODERATE, EVEN MEDIATING ROLE. WE CAUTIONED AGAINST OVEROPTIMISM.

3. IN CLOSING, THE SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR SAID HIS TASK IN DACCA IS GROWING MORE DIFFICULT. HE NOTED THAT THE NORTH KOREANS ARE OPENING AN EMBASSY IN DACCA, WHILE SOUTH KOREA WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE TO RELY ON VISITS BY ITS NEW DELHI-BASED STAFF. (THE SOUTH KOREANS HAVE A TRADE REPRESENTATIVE IN DACCA BUT HE APPARENTLY IS ILL- PREPARED TO HANDLE DIPLOMATIC COMPLEXITIES.)
BOSTER

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